

The Greater Frenchman Bay Region and The 7 Town Shellfish Ordinance. Benefits:

Increased shellfish resource for all residents

Increased opportunity for residents to gain income from clamming

Recreational digging: It will be easier for recreational harvesters to find and harvest clams. Recreational flats will be set aside in easy access areas.

Cash Value: Many Local businesses that rely on local clams will be protected. Clams and dollar\$ will stay local. Clammers selling their harvest at local shellfish markets, dealers and restaurants will spend a good portion of their earnings in local businesses.

Trespassing and littering will be lessened: Trespassing and littering by harvesters is a violation of the ordinance punishable by fines and loss of license.

Shore cleanup as conservation work: We will be removing trash from the region's shores. All harvesters are required to spend 12 hours on conservation time. Shore clean up is a high priority.

Local Town Landing: There will be less congestion at town landings during summer months since harvesters from far away will be limited by the ordinance.

Community Support: All Local Residents as partners in this program will be supporting their neighbors and surrounding communities, a traditional way of making a living and the ecology of the area as a whole while enhancing the opportunity for local based income and economy.

Marine Enhancement: All Local Residents will be taking part in an active program to grow more clams, create higher biodiversity, improve water quality and lessen pollution and litter along our coast.

Greater Frenchman Bay Regional Ordinance

A brief of history: Last year the coast of Maine was hit hard with red tide. 2005 was such a year. Almost all the coast of our State was closed during these periods, not our area. This year is predicted to be another hard red tide hit to the Maine Coast. The area around Greater Frenchman Bay has no history red tide.

Because we have avoided red tide/Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) events here, the harvesters from Calais to Portland come to our area to dig. Their towns have ordinances so we are not allowed to go there after red tide leaves. Over a hundred diggers are added to the load of harvesters on the resource during these events. This has resulted in extreme overharvest of the local shellfish resource and a seriously depleted income for those of us that live here. Our harvest income has been cut by more than half! The affect of shellfish overharvesting in our area has lead local harvesters to propose a program to rescue our local resource and industry. The ordinance plan includes the towns of Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento, Sullivan and Trenton.

We are an industry employing over 70 harvesters with direct pay approaching \$400K. That money stays here and is multiplied many times as it circulates through the restaurants, markets and stores around us. As the clams and harvester income circulate through our local businesses well over a \$1 million is put in circulation. Other towns that have instituted such programs have seen significant increase in these figures. There, more harvesting jobs have been added and shellfish harvest income has increased.

We are proposing to do what the State and The Maine Department of Marine Resources cannot. DMR enforces the 2" clam size limit and polices polluted areas. That's it.

We propose to manage our resources for optimum shellfish conservation, recreational and commercial harvests by limiting numbers *commercial* harvesters, by closing some areas so clams can grow, seeding clams in areas that are heavily depleted, surveying the flats for best uses, finding and moving seed clams from slow growth areas to where they will grow quickly and protecting the environment while insuring the opportunity for those that make their living on the tide. One result of this program will be that clams can grow larger and so be worth more per clam. In addition, conservation work will be required to get a license. This will include regular shore clean up around all places harvesters frequent and beyond.

To begin this program we are asking each of the seven towns to contribute \$3000. We have received a grant for some costs such as hiring a warden and printing licenses. In the future we will be able to be increasingly self sufficient. Now, though, we are asking you, the residents of these seven towns to support our industry and efforts with your vote at upcoming town meetings.

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